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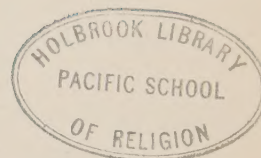
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under the auspices of

the WORLD COUNCIL of CHURCHES (in process of formation)
the INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL
the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES
the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
the WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION
the WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep its readers informed of trends of thought and opinion in and about the Churches and Christian movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items.

No. 12

Thirteenth Year

March 28, 1947

Meeting of the World Council of Churches

The Provisional Committee of the World Council of Churches will meet from April 22 to 25, 1947 at Buckhill Falls, Pa. in the United States. It will be preceded by meetings of the Joint Committee of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, and of the Committee on arrangements for the first Assembly of the World Council in 1948.

The most important points on the agenda of the Provisional Committee have to do with the preparation of the Assembly to be held next year at Amsterdam. Considerable time will also be given to questions of membership in the World Council, very specially the participation of the Orthodox Churches and of the Younger Churches. The relationships between the World Council and the International Missionary Council will be fully considered.

The Committee will review the activities of the eleven Departments of the World Council and study the spiritual, organisational and financial problems which arise out of the very considerable expansion of the World's Council's tasks and responsibilities.

The Committee will be attended by the American members, by eight of the European Continental members, three British members as well as members from China, India and Mexico.

E.P.S. Geneva

"The International Missionary Council"

"The International Missionary Council, its history, functions, and relationships" is the title of a booklet issued by the New York office of the I.M.C. Its author is Mr. L.S. Albright and its motto: "The evangelisation of this generation our world responsibility".

The booklet gives a survey of the origin and early development of the Council, its structure, the mile-stones of its history from the Edinburgh Conference in 1910 to the Interim

Committee meeting in February 1946 in Geneva. It describes the activity of the Council during the second World War, its help to Orphaned Missions and its post-war planning. There follow the list of its officers, the membership of the Committee composed of 41 missionary groups and National Councils and a list of missionary publications.

The booklet can be ordered at the New York office of the International Missionary Council, 156 Fifth Avenue, or at the London office, 2 Eaton Gate. E.P.S. Geneva

A Decision of the Ecumenical Patriarch

In a letter to Archbishop Wladimir in Paris the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople has announced his decision to maintain the Exarchate for Russian Orthodox Churches in western Europe and to appoint Archbishop Vladimir in Paris as its Exarch. E.P.S. Geneva

KOREA

Missionary Help

The North American Mission Boards through the Korean Committee have been endeavouring to exert their influence toward a solution of the problem of military occupation in Korea which would make possible for Korea a free and democratic government, and resolutions from the mission boards have been sent to the Department of State with the hope that they will be given consideration when negotiations regarding the future of Korea are taking place.

In the field of higher education in Korea there has been need for greater coordination. An agreement was made on a Federation of Christian Institutions of Higher Learning.

Recognising that the people of Korea will need to give attention to the matter of public health, the mission boards are expressing their willingness to cooperate with them in a programme of medical work, which will include not only care of the sick, but health programmes and the training of doctors and nurses.

The Christian Literature Society of Korea has been reorganised, and literature production and distribution will have an important place in the missionary programme. A study is being made of literature available in Korea and new literature needed.

In order to have full discussion on the field regarding plans for work in Korea, the North American boards are planning to send a joint deputation to Korea in May and June of this year.

E.P.S. Geneva

NEW ZEALAND

Room for Displaced Persons

"New Zealand is capable of carrying a very much larger population than it has at present", states a report adopted at the recent Synod of the Church of New Zealand. It points out that the country will probably not receive many immigrants from Great Britain; but as a result of

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the war there are many displaced persons in the world without real roots in any country. The report strongly believes that "every encouragement should be given to those likely to be completely absorbed in our population", to come to New Newland. E.P.S. Geneva

U.S.S.R.Reorganisation of Orthodox Missionary Council

According to the "Eastern Churches Broadsheet", published under the auspices of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association in England (February-March, 1947) the Missionary Council, attached to the Patriarchal Synod is now revived by a patriarchal decree. Archbishop Vitali of Tula is designated as the first President.

"Need for such a council has been felt for some time", writes the Broadsheet. "Since the Far Eastern Province returned to the jurisdiction of the Moscow Patriarchate in 1945, many thorny problems have had to be solved. Within the U.S.S.R. itself there is a need to centralise church activities of this kind. As a rule, the non-Russian Orthodox of the Union have survived the Revolution as well or even better than the Russians. This is particularly true of the Finns and Tartars of the diocese of Kazan now ruled by an able missionary, Bishop Hermogen Kozhin. The Chuvash, Udmurt, Bashkir and Yakut Republics have now their own Bishops, in some cases Russian, in others native by birth.

"There were many conversions in Central Asia, both in Kazakstan, where there is now a Seminary in Alma Ata, and in Uzbekistan, where Tashkent is the seat of the Bishop. In Georgia and Armenia, Russian parishes are lively.

"In the Baltic States there is an advance in Estonia, the capital of which, Tallinn, has ten Orthodox churches, while in Leningrad, which is probably ten times larger, there is just the same number of parishes. The number of the Orthodox in the Baltic Republics, Karelia and Konigsberg district of Eastern Prussia, incorporated into the U.S.S.R. is growing fast not only because of the vast influx of Russians from the interior but also because of growth in the native communities.

"Finally, since the Synod in Lvov last year, there is the delicate and complex problem of the incorporation of the Ruthenians into the Orthodox Church. The growth of the Orthodox Church in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which are now both in the Patriarchate of Moscow as far as the native Orthodox are concerned, adds fresh problems. The newly established Missionary Council in Moscow is designed to study and to find solutions to those problems."

E.P.S. Geneva

JAPANThe Russian Orthodox Church

Three reports about the Russian Orthodox Church in Japan have appeared in the Religious News Service (New York). From Moscow comes a statement that General MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo refused a visa to a representative of the Moscow Patriarchate to visit the Russian Orthodox Church in Japan and invited the Russian Orthodox

Church in America to send a Bishop to Japan. From New York it is reported that an American Orthodox Bishop has gone to Japan to re-organise the work of the Russian Orthodox Church there. And from Tokyo comes a report that the Russian Orthodox Church leaders in Japan want the American Bishop to remain as permanent head of their Church.

E.P.S. Geneva

SPAIN

Leaders Training

The question of background is more urgent than ever for Spanish Protestantism, which hopes to be able to obtain the services of workers who have had a thorough training before undertaking practical work.

The "Seminario Unido" in Madrid has had to stop its activities since 1936. However, during the course of the last few years, work with individuals has gone on, for the purpose of preparing some young people for the ministry. Their studies are under the supervision of former professors of the Seminary and other qualified persons.

These efforts, however laudable, are nevertheless inadequate and other means must be sought for preparing the future background of the Evangelical Churches. That is why bursaries have been offered to young Spaniards by Churches abroad, so that they can train themselves for the ministry.

It was decided to create an organ to facilitate this training. The "Junta Cultural Evangelica" was created in Madrid on February 5, 1947; it is composed of twelve pastors including the presidents of the "Iglesia Evangelica Espanola" and the "Iglesia Espanola Reformada" and two members of the former "Seminario Unido".

The principal object of the Junta Cultural Evangelica is to collect funds to enable young Protestants to study for the ministry, and to reorganise theological instruction in Madrid on lines more appropriate to the present situation.

E.P.S. Geneva

GERMANY

Church Life

The following cross-section of church life in Germany is taken from a series of reports published in the "Evangelical Press Service" in Bethel-Bielefeld on February 5, 1947.

1.6 million People brought into Contact.- The "Suchdienst Arbeitsgemeinschaft" (Search for Missing Relatives), which is well known throughout Germany, has brought nearly 1.6 million people in contact with one another again during the first year of its existence. Out of 38,000 children who had been registered with the Hamburg Headquarters as orphaned, up to December 31, 1946, 13,733 children had been restored to their parents or relatives. As the barriers between the zones have been abolished since January 1, 1947 as far as the "Suchdienst" is concerned, it has made an arrangement with the corresponding organisation in the Russian Zone, to allow refugees and evacuees in the western zones to get into touch with their relatives in the East.

The "Suchdienst" is supported by the Hilfswerk of the Evangelical Church in Germany, the German Roman Catholic Caritas Union, the German Red Cross and the Workers' Social Service (Arbeiterwohlfahrt). Centres are open in the Evangelical and Roman Catholic parsonages, and in the offices of the Red Cross and the Arbeiterwohlfahrt, where requests can be received for a search to be undertaken.

The "Herrnhuter" Find a New Home.- Until recently Neu-Gnadenfeld, in the Duchy of Bentheim, was called Alexisdorf. It was originally a barrack built in the 1930's to accomodate a thousand convicts, who were to drain the great moors along the Dutch frontier and make them cultivable. In April 1946 this camp was handed over as a settlement to the members of the Herrnhuter Brüdergemeinde (Moravian Brethren) who had been driven out of Poland. About 150 Moravian families, with over 200 children, have found a new home here. Another 35 Moravian refugees are to receive accomodation in barracks which are still standing empty. The men who are not engaged in extending the camp work out on the moor, cultivating the land. Because they earn so little, the women try to help them. The spiritual life is lively and fervent. There are often over 80% of the adults at church on Sundays. At the week-end they gather together for an hour's singing in accordance with an old Moravian custom. There is also a church choir. The collection on Sundays always amounts to at least 200 marks, all contributed by poor refugees.

Union of Evangelical Free Churches.- At a conference of its extended Committee, the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany dealt with the question of including all the Evangelical State Churches and Evangelical Free Churches in a "Council of the Protestant Churches in Germany". The Union, which included the Episcopal Methodist Church the Baptists, the Evangelical Union and the League of Free Evangelical Congregations, declared its readiness to discuss the matter with the heads of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID). E.P.S. Geneva

GERMANY

Help to Bible Societies

One of the biggest problems by which the German Churches are faced is that of providing their congregations with Bibles, New Testaments and Gospels. Since the beginning of the war production had been cut down by official restrictions, and towards the end of the war the Stuttgart Bible Society, which was the only one allowed to continue its work, only received paper to print Bibles for soldiers. These difficulties of supply are increased by losses due to bombardments and evacuations, so that the requirements amount to millions.

Of the various Bible Societies which were printing Scriptures before the war, Stuttgart is the only one able to continue printing today. But its scope is limited by the shortage of paper and the lack of binding material. The same obstacles hinder the resumption of editorial work by the other Bible Societies, which are handicapped in addition by the loss of type and printing machines. However, these societies, such as the Prussian Bible Society and the Saxon Bible Society, are hoping shortly to resume their activities.

In order to meet the need the foreign Bible Societies have tried to make their assistance as complete and effective as possible. Up to the present the American Bible Society has carried almost the whole weight of the effort: about 720,000 New Testaments, 190,000 Bibles, 830,000 Gospels have been sent to Germany and distributed by various means; to these figures should be added those sent to prisoners, namely some 43,000 Bibles, 525,000 Testaments and 1,170,000 Gospels.

In addition the American Bible Society has bought 100 tons of paper, 405 tons of cellulose which have been sent to Germany where they will be turned into paper sufficient for printing over two million Bibles and New Testaments. The necessary materials for binding these volumes are being sent direct from America. The printing will be placed by the German Reconstruction Committee (Hilfswerk) to the different Bible Societies interested.

The British and Foreign Bible Society is printing in England and Finland 25,000 Bibles and 175,000 Testaments, which will be sent off shortly to Germany. The directors of the Society were very touched when they heard that the children in the schools in the British Zone had no Bibles nor New Testaments, and that nearly three million volumes will have to be printed. The position is being examined to see what steps should be taken to meet this crying need.

An exploratory journey will be undertaken shortly by the president of the Swedish Bible Society, who will probably lend his co-operation to any organisation which is helping to supply Bibles. Other Bible Societies will also help in meeting the needs of the German Churches. E.P.S. Geneva

JAPAN

The Lutheran Church and the Kyodan

The Evangelical Lutheran Church has been re-established in Japan. It comprises 30 churches and evangelistic centres with 26 ministers. It has adopted the constitution which was in force in 1941. The recent conference which reconstituted the Church did not mention the Kyodan, or United Church of Christ in Japan. Therefore, they claim that it is technically incorrect to say the Church voted to leave the Kyodan. The Lutherans are of the opinion that the United Church is not a real Church but a federation of Churches, each of which maintains its own Christian belief. They added: "If the leaders of the Kyodan share our opinion we can remain in it. Otherwise, we shall have to leave."

This argument places the issue squarely up to the leaders of the United Church which has hitherto considered itself not merely a federation but a United Church. E.P.S. Geneva

MELANESIA

Retirement of Bishop Baddeley

News has been received of the retirement of the Rt. Rev. W.H. Baddeley, Anglican Bishop of Melanesia. Bishop Baddeley has held this position for seventeen years, the longest period in the history of the Diocese. He has been well-known as a fearless and outspoken

friend of the rights of the native peoples of his vast diocese, which extends over the Solomon Islands, part of the New Hebrides, and New Britain. During the war, like other missionaries, the Bishop remained in the islands in spite of the occupation by the Japanese. He retires to take up a position in England. E.P.S. Geneva

World Conference of Christian Youth, Oslo 1947

A most representative and encouraging final meeting of the international Committee on Arrangements for the Oslo Conference was held at Geneva from March 19 to 21. The eight initiating and sponsoring organisations (World Council of Churches, World Alliance of Y.M.C.A.s, World's Y.W.C.A., W.S.C.F., International Missionary Council, World's Sunday School Association, World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches, and World's Christian Endeavour) were represented by staff and delegates of 12 different nationalities (2 North American, 2 Asiatic, 1 Australasian, 7 European

The Committee, in addition to the principal speakers ^{already invited} (see E.P.S. No. 6), invited Mlle Madeleine Barot, head of the French Protestant Youth Service organisation C.I.M.A.D.E. to speak at Oslo on the subject: "Confronting Moral Chaos". There will be sermons by an Eastern Orthodox preacher, by Bishop Berggrav (Lutheran-Norway), and by Bishop Stephen Neill (Anglican-Great Britain). Responsibility for leadership of daily services of worship was allocated to members of the Swiss, Swedish, American, and Czech delegations; places were reserved for services to be conducted by African and Asiatic leaders, and the Norwegian, Orthodox and Anglican Churches were invited to arrange services of Holy Communion.

The Committee received reports of transoceanic transport difficulties which affected many delegations; but, after examining the most pessimistic estimates of possible attendance at the Conference, the Committee decided that even under the worst possible conditions a sufficiently representative Conference could be brought together and that the responsible organisations should therefore be urged to go ahead in faith. It considered in detail the problems involved in getting a German delegation, and reaffirmed the conviction that it was essential for the ecumenical nature of the Conference that German and Japanese delegations should be present. As regards the former it received the report that intensive efforts at Oslo and Berlin had resulted in an assurance that a German delegation of 15 could obtain governmental permission to attend.

The Norwegian Committee presented a most encouraging report. 700 delegates will be lodged in student hostels and the remainder in hotels and private homes. A great Rally to be attended by upwards of 10,000 young Norwegian Christians and by the members of the Conference will be held at the Bislet Stadium on the evening of July 29, St. Olav's Day.

Careful plans were made for the use of press, film and radio to bring the message of the Conference "Jesus Christ is Lord" to the youth of the world. It was expected that a broadcast service with world coverage would be arranged at 17.45 Greenwich Mean Time on Sunday July 27th. E.P.S. Geneva

